

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05580 092038Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 SAJ-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5580

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJECT: MUSCOVITE JEWS' PRE-PASSOVE PROBLEMS

1. JEWISH SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE BEGUN THEIR USUAL PRE-PASSOVER HARASSMENT OF MOSCOW'S JEWISH COMMUNITY. THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM OF WHETHER OR NOT ANY MATZO WOULD BE BAKED, AND IF SO HOW MUCH, IS STILL NOT RESOLVED. OUR SOURCES FEEL THAT AS IN THE PAST, A SMALL, INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT WILL GRUDGINGLY BE MADE AVAILABLE.

2. IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A NEW WRINKLE IN PRE-PASSOVER HARASSMENT, OUR SOURCES SAY THAT IT HAS BECOME ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BUY FRESH FISH IN MOSCOW (FRESH FISH BEING AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE SEDER MENU). ONE SOURCE SAID THAT SHE HAD ASKED A FISH-MONGER WHETHER THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF FRESH FISH WAS THE RESULT OF THE USUAL PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTION; SHE WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO DEPRIVE THE JEWS OF FRESH FISH AT PASSOVER TIME.

3. COMMENT: SOVIET JEWS FACE PROBLEMS EVERY PASSOVER IN OBTAINING THEIR NECESSARY SPECIAL PROVISIONS. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF FISH RESULTS FROM A CONSCIOUS DECISION ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES TO HINDER THE JEWS, IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THIS RUMOR IS
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05580 092038Z

GOING AROUND.

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Message Attributes

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